

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
April 21, 2020

**A Good Sign**

Covid-19 cases are still increasing, but at a turtles pace. For those who drive along Rte 2 between Milton and Grand Isle and have had to wait while a turtle sluggishly crosses the road, you'll recognize the comparison as good news. Another good sign is that there aren't a lot of new advisories to report. In the past 7 days, there have been 66 new positive cases of CV-19 out of 2,547 people who have either tested or completed monitoring. That's about a 2.5% positive test rate, that is by far the lowest we've seen.

For all those wearing those colorful homemade masks, surgical masks, and bandanas, we salute you. You're doing your part. For those not yet up to masking, we'll borrow an expression from the pre-game show on ESPN's Monday Night Football ... "C'MON MAN"

**Need Food?**

The Vermont Foodbank and Vermont National Guard will distribute food to those in need at five different areas of Vermont beginning on Wednesday. These points of distribution will help ease demand on food shelves around that state that have seen a surge in demand.

The National Guard will set up and operate Points of Distribution (PODs) at state airports in Swanton, North Clarendon, Newport, Bennington, and North Springfield on separate days over the next two weeks. Those in need of food can go to these locations on the appointed days and receive a seven-day supply of Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE) for each member of their household.

Those who are ill, have been advised to quarantine, or lack transportation can send a friend or relative to pick up meals for them. Those picking up food can come to the location nearest to them, open their trunk, and the appropriate amount of food will be loaded by members of the Guard.

Dates and locations (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. each day):

- \* Wednesday, April 22 - Franklin County Airport (Highgate/Swanton)
- \* Friday, April 24 - Rutland Southern VT Regional Airport (Clarendon)
- \* Monday, April 27 - Hartness State Airport (Weathersfield/Springfield)
- \* Tuesday, April 28 - William H Morse State Airport (Bennington)
- \* Wednesday, April 29 - Northeast Kingdom International Airport (Coventry/Newport)

The need for supplemental distribution is being assessed on a week-by-week basis. Supply chains are strong to food shelves and Vermont grocery stores are not experiencing shortages in most food items.

For details, or to donate to the Vermont Foodbank visit <https://www.vtfoodbank.org/>.

### **Agency of Commerce and Community Development Wants to Hear From You**

ACCD wants to hear from all Vermont businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This information will help us paint a complete picture as we work toward solutions. Please share information via the ACCD Business Impact Form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vtcovid19>

### **Weekly Town Government Assessment**

Essential services are in good shape with no absenteeism or gaps in service reported due to Covid-19.

### **Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Market Report**

- AAFM is developing guidance for the safe operation of farmers' markets by May 1.
- AAFM's Business Impacts Survey received 140 responses between March 19 and April 16.

Updated snapshot of impacts:

Of those 140 businesses, 16% reported closing their business (doubling from 8% last week), 47% reported being partially open, and 37% reported being fully operational.

The average loss of employees per business was 26%. Five businesses have indicated they are hiring additional employees.

Estimated economic losses total \$13,629,900 from the 120 (of 140) reporting businesses, with a median of \$19,000 per business (increase of \$3,000 per business over last week).

AAFM has connected dairy cooperatives, dairy processors, and the Vermont Food Bank together to find ways to minimize milk disposal.

The partners are reviewing costs and distribution issues this week.

Vermont meat processors are operating at capacity with higher demand for services, with many booked out eight weeks. Nationally, meat and poultry facilities are facing shutdowns due to COVID-19.